

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 91-488-C - ORDER NO. 92-231
MARCH 30, 1992

IN RE: Request for Extended Area Service) ORDER DENYING
 from McClellanville and Awendaw) PETITION FOR
 to Charleston, South Carolina.) HEARING

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a Petition for Hearing filed on behalf of McClellanville Telephone Company, Inc. (McClellanville). The instant Docket was initiated on or about August 13, 1991, by way of the Commission instructing the Commission Staff to investigate the establishment of the availability of extended area service (EAS) for the McClellanville customers to and from the McClellanville and Awendaw exchanges to Charleston, Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach, all such vicinities to which Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell) provides local exchange service. The affected Companies, McClellanville and Southern Bell, were required to provide and file cost studies and community-of-interest studies with the Commission. The cost studies and community-of-interest studies were duly filed by Southern Bell and McClellanville in November, 1991. Since that time, the Commission Staff has met with subscribers in the McClellanville and Awendaw areas and informed them of the results

of the information filed by the two telephone companies. The results of the studies show that implementation of the described two-way EAS will result in material increases in McClellanville's approved rates and charges.

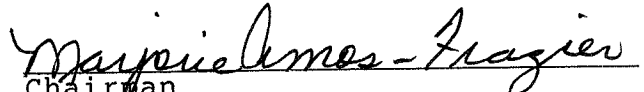
In its Petition, McClellanville alleges that as part of its evaluation, it has attempted to develop alternatives which would eliminate or reduce the "unfair consequences" of a two-way EAS. McClellanville recognizes that a portion of its customers have expressed an interest in the immediate conduct of a survey or vote for the implementation of the described EAS, however, McClellanville submits that the interest of its entire body of customers would best be served by an opportunity to identify to the Commission the availability of options to EAS which may reduce the potential for adverse effects for a substantial portion of the McClellanville customers.

The Commission has considered the request of McClellanville Telephone Company and finds that it does not allege good cause as to why the Commission's accepted policy to ballot the affected local exchange subscribers should not be followed at this time. McClellanville submits no concrete alternatives for the Commission's review, so the Commission sees no reason to hold in abeyance the balloting process. The subscribers of McClellanville Telephone Company will be informed through the balloting process of the impact of the requested two-way EAS request on their local subscriber rates. This way, the customers will make the choice and

the Commission will consider the results of the balloting process. Therefore, McClellanville Telephone Company's request for a hearing is denied and the Commission will require the Company to ballot its customers at the appropriate time.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)